Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104559
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:LCB
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EUR/EE ONLY; THREE COPIES ONLY
----------046203 250553Z /21
R 242334Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104559

FOR MAGEE FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: (A) SOFIA 700, (B) SOFIA 689; (C) STATE 90359;
(D) SOFIA 528

1. SONANDRES ETA. SONANDRES IS NEGOTIATING WITH PERSONNEL AND FSI FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE LAST THREE WEEKS OF HIS LANGUAGE TRAINING BASED ON NEEDS EXPRESSED BY THE EMBASSY AND HIS PROGRESS IN LEARNING BULGARIAN THUS FAR. THIS EXEMPTION WOULD ALLOW HIM TO ARRIVE AT POST IN MID-JULY AS YOU REQUESTED (REF. B). WE WILL INFORM YOU NEXT WEEK VIA THIS CHANNEL ABOUT SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. SOFIA VISIT BY MEMBER OF BERGLAND PARTY. USDA HAS INFORMED US THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MEMBER OF
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BERGLAND'S PARTY TO VISIT SOFIA DURING HIS EE TRIP IN MAY. HOWEVER, THE USDA MARKETING TEAM WHICH WILL VISIT SOFIA IN EARLY MAY INCLUDES KELLY HARRISON, A SENIOR USDA OFFICIAL (GENERAL SALES MANAGER).

3. POSSIBLE NAVY SHIP VISIT. DOD STILL HAS NOT SENT US THE NAVY MESSAGE (REF. C). WE ARE PRESSURING DOD

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TO SEND IT ASAP.

4. CHANCERY SITES. WE HAVE INFORMED PROTOCOL OF YOUR VIEWS (REFS. A AND D). PROTOCOL IS INFORMING THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROCEED TO LEASE TWO LOTS OF THE VAN NESS STREET INTERNATIONAL CENTER TO THE GOB.

5. KRUSTEV PROGRAM. WE AWAIT WORD AS TO KRUSTEV'S ACCEPTANCE OF BERGLAND'S INVITATION. UPON RECEIPT OF SAME, PROGRAMMING AGENCY CAN BEGIN PLANNING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VISITS MENTIONED REF. A. ALSO, ANYTHING NEW ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATION OF JOINT AGRICULTURAL STATEMENT SINCE SOFIA 0603?

6. POSSIBLE TSVETKOV VISIT. WE WILL PREPARE A CABLE AUTHORIZING YOU TO INVITE TSVETKOV TO VISIT THE U.S. IN GEORGE VEST'S NAME. WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT, UNLESS KRUSTEV IS UNABLE TO ACCEPT BERGLAND'S INVITATION, IT WOULD BE BEST FOR TSVETKOV TO COME IN THE FALL, I.E., PROBABLY OCTOBER.

7. AIRGRAMS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD POUCH US A XEROX COPY OF EACH OF YOUR AIRGRAMS. AS IT IS, THERE IS A LONG DELAY IN OUR RECEIPT OF THEM BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DEPARTMENT IS SO FAR BEHIND IN DISTRIBUTING THEM. FOR INSTANCE, WE RECEIVED YOUR A-48 (1977), DATED NOVEMBER 2, IN MID-APRIL. WE FIND YOUR AIRGRAMS INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. VISA FEES. THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY IS CHARGING THE MEMBERS OF THE USDA MARKETING TEAM WHICH WILL VISIT YOU NEXT MONTH $13 FOR VISAING AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT. THE EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US THAT THE GOB ISSUED NEW REGULATIONS EARLY THIS YEAR PROVIDING THAT, HENCEFORWARD, FEES WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL VISAS. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WE HAVE RECIPROCALLY AGREED THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR VISAING OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY TO CLEAR UP THIS ATTER? VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE104559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHGLENN:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780175-1168
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780423/aaaaasyr.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 282249a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 SOFIA 700, 78 SOFIA 689, 78 STATE 90359, 78 SOFIA 528
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2866725
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: SOFIA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/282249a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
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20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014